

**THE “DART BOARDERS” PROGRAM OF THE DOUBLE ASTEROID REDIRECTION TEST (DART) MISSION.** A. S. Rivkin<sup>1</sup> and N. L. Chabot<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory,

The “DART Boarders” program was conceived as a means of giving early career researchers (ECR) a taste of NASA mission experience by inviting them to observe an online multi-day team meeting of the Double Asteroid Redirection Test (DART) Investigation Team. The program was inspired by similar programs NASA administered for the Europa Clipper, Psyche, and Dragonfly missions [1]. Unlike those programs but like the “InsightSeers” program [2] (which was also an inspiration), the DART Boarders program was not administered by NASA. While the program was aimed broadly at ECR, we did take steps to ensure the selections represented a range of institutions and did not have existing ties to the team via an advisor or supervisor, and we favored people with less experience when candidates were otherwise similar. We also were able to broaden eligibility beyond only United States citizens. A total of twenty ECR were selected as DART Boarders between the Spring 2021 and Winter 2022 meetings, with eleven at the first and nine at the second. The twenty DART Boarders represented twenty different institutions in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

We will informally discuss the origin of and philosophy we’ve followed for the program, some of the ways being project-run affected the experience, some lessons learned, and feedback we’ve received.

**References:**

- [1] [https://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary\\_news/2020/08/28/new-early-career-opportunity-small-bodies-assessment-group-sbag/](https://www.lpi.usra.edu/planetary_news/2020/08/28/new-early-career-opportunity-small-bodies-assessment-group-sbag/)  
[2] <https://astrobiology.nasa.gov/news/insightseers-program/>